

A submission to the Senate Inquiry into the Impact of Mining in the Murray Darling Basin

Australia needs an immediate legislation change for all NEW COAL MINES Australia wide.

1. EIS required by all mining companies before entry on any privately owned properties.
2. All states must develop a mining policy so people know where mining will likely to be developed in the future in the same way that cities have regional development plans.
3. Change Legislation as it currently favours coal mines – please change this immediately to get rid of bullying tactics by coal mining companies.
4. Landholders be given the right NOT to sell or be mined – People be given the right to sell if they WANT to sell, or REJECT the mine and that is the end of dealing with that property. If landholders reject the mine then that country is not touched by mines in anyway.
5. Compensation for drilling and exploration and business interruption and landholders time.
6. Coal mines be required to finish one mine before starting another one.
7. Planning procedure so people have rights to their land and not governed by government policies which favour mines.
8. Better and fairer compensation deal for affect landholders
9. We need solar, wind and wave power accessible for all Australians.
10. As the Murray Darling dries up new food producing areas will need to be found and that will be in the Central Queensland area where coal mines are rending country unusable for agriculture so hence the need for new legislation for all coal mines.
11. Agriculture and coal mining does not co-exist in any form with satisfactory outcomes.

Comments

1. Coal mines are selling coal to countries with no emissions trading scheme.
2. Coal Mines cause pollution and hence climate change which will cause the Murray Darling River system to dry up and then other areas will be needed to produce food for the growing world population – Australia must retain its high standard of quality food production. We are world leaders in high quality food – clean and green – however if coal mining is allowed to increase there will be no quality food produced in this country. Australia’s population is expected to grow by 65% by 2049 – Where will our food be produced?

Coal mining causes

Health issues -

Emotional and mental health issues caused by dealing with mines taking over peoples livelihoods and farm/grazing land

Suicide increases

General wellbeing

Break up of family unit because of re-location and change in business

Road accidents caused by mine employees driving while tired

Noise pollution

Dust pollution and coal dust pollution

Fear and uncertainty for the future

Coal Mining causes -

Environmental Issues-

Environmental disasters – land damaged forever, there are no proven areas of rehabilitation of farm/grazing land in Australia

Flora and fauna damaged and eliminated

Mining Affects River flows adversely – (Mines are allowed to divert rivers and creeks and streams which effect the environment).

Depletion of underground and surface water

Complete tree clearing

All of the above also leading to climate change.

Release of Co2 and other gases.

Coal mining causes -

Business Issues- such as disruption to existing business which are now using the land. People are forced to change business and location – loss of income – loss of infrastructure etc.

Coal mines causes –

Loss of security for future generations of family business

Coal mining causes –

Loss of aboriginal sites for ever

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